Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

To

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Homeschooling Success and Real-World Preparation: A Parent's Perspective

Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:44:07 AM

Committee Secretary Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee, Parliament House George Street Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to share my firsthand experience as a homeschooling parent and to emphasize the invaluable learning opportunities that homeschooling has provided for my children. In light of the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, I believe it's crucial to highlight the positive impact that homeschooling had on our children's love for learning and their preparation for the real world.

After embarking on our homeschooling journey in 2007, I witnessed a remarkable transformation in our children's attitude towards education. The personalized approach we adopted enabled them to engage, and better still, immerse themselves in learning, and instilled in them a newfound confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, they were genuinely engaged in exploring topics that sparked their curiosity and pursuing of knowledge in a way that resonated with them personally.

Through homeschooling, our children not acquired academic knowledge, but they also developed essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They learnt how to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to new situations—all skills that serve them now, well beyond the confines of a classroom. This has seen our eldest son be offered a job in human resources at the age of 19, in a business with over 600 employees. It saw our daughter hold down 3 jobs at the age of 18, demonstrating effective time management and determination. She has also just been offered an administration roll after one shift for a different roll — a position that the employer was looking for a 30-year-old with life experience. Our daughter is currently 20. The employer was impressed with her maturity and her 'articulate speech'.

Moreover, homeschooling allowed my children to actively participate in the world around them, where they gained practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Whether it's volunteering in the community, pursuing hobbies and interests, or engaging in real-world projects, they were actively preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to recognize and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling, which go beyond mere academic achievement. As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture our children's love of learning that has prepared them for the complexities of the real world through personalized, holistic education.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely, John Bolitho